

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUPPORT THE APPLE CRUNCH

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I rise to support House Resolution 1143. This resolution is intended to help increase awareness of our nation's domestic apple supply and promote healthy food choices for students and communities.

The United States is the second largest producer of apples in the world, after China. I am fortunate to have a very large apple industry in my District, with many growers and processors. Growers in the states of Washington, New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and California are the largest domestic producers.

To promote domestic apple production, the U.S. Apple Association recognizes October as National Apple Month, which focuses on educating consumers about the positive health outcomes associated with apple consumption. The Apple Crunch was created to encourage children to participate in National Apple Month activities.

The Apple Crunch was started in my home state of Pennsylvania and incentivizes schools to serve apples on their school lunch menus, as snacks in the classroom, and for use in classroom activities. Schools that create the most original activities integrating apples into the class day win monetary prizes to be put toward the school's food service operation.

Communities are also encouraged to participate in the Apple Crunch to support their local participating schools. Many local businesses voluntarily serve apples and apple products to their employees and to customers.

Madam Speaker, this October will mark the second year in which the Apple Crunch has been celebrated nationally. I think that we can all agree that supporting our nation's domestic agriculture production is not only important to our economy, but also the health of our citizens. I urge your support of this resolution, which promotes the goals and ideals of National Apple Week, and specifically the Apple Crunch.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, in compliance with new "earmark" disclosure procedures adopted by the House Republican Conference, I hereby provide the following information regarding a request for funding I made of the House Appropriations Committee for inclusion in H.R. 6599, the Military Construction—VA Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Specifically, the project will be included in Title 1, Military Construction—Army.

H.R. 6599 includes \$9.9 million for Phase 1 of the Ballistic Evaluation Facility (66725) in the Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Act. The entity to receive the funding for this project is the United States Army, specifically the Armament Research Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC) located at Picatinny Arsenal, Picatinny, New Jersey, 07806–5000.

The actual design and construction will be executed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The funding will be used for planning, design and construction of a state-of-the-art Ballistic Experimentation Facility (BEF) for Large Caliber Armaments at Picatinny Arsenal. This process will produce a one-of-kind research and testing facility which will reduce Army's operational overhead and maintenance costs and improve safety for Army employees. The use of U.S. taxpayer funding is justified because this construction will provide near-term and long-range benefits to the joint warfighter—Army, Marines, Navy and Air Force.

As this funding will be provided to the United States Army, the requirement of matching funds is not applicable.

IN HONOR OF ALEX MISTRI

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Alex Mistri, a former U.S. House of Representatives staffer who left the legislative branch to serve with honor and distinction as President Bush's Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs.

I have known many White House legislative liaisons in my 22 years as a U.S. Representative. Of all those who have served the four presidents I have worked with, Alex Mistri stands out as the most professional, dedicated and skilled.

Alex recently left the White House to work for the State Department at our embassy in Baghdad. He is joined there by his wife, Amy McKennis Mistri. I have no doubt Alex will be an asset to both our government and the Iraqi people.

Alex began his service as Special Assistant for Legislative Affairs to the President in February 2005. As one of the President's principal liaisons to the House, Alex's primary responsibility was to develop, coordinate and execute White House strategy on legislative issues. Alex specialized in issues related to national security, homeland security, international affairs and tax policy. As a senior member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and Foreign Affairs, I developed a very strong and productive working relationship with Alex.

Part of Alex's effectiveness, no doubt, arose from his familiarity with congressional proce-

dures. Prior to his service in the White House, Alex served as chief of staff for Congressman BILL SHUSTER. In that role, Alex was the congressman's chief political and legislative advisor with daily responsibility for the management of the office.

From the mid-'90s until taking his position as Congressman SHUSTER's chief of staff, Alex worked as legislative director to Congressman ROBIN HAYES, legislative assistant to Senator Lauch Faircloth, and press aide to Senator Alfonse D'Amato.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in thanking Alex for many years of laudable service to the House, Senate and administration, and in wishing him great success in Iraq.

IN TRIBUTE TO JOAN LEE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Joan Lee, a dear friend, tireless volunteer and community leader who recently passed away. Joan served as the Convener for the Sacramento Gray Panthers and was an admired advocate for seniors and people with disabilities. As her family and friends gather to honor and remember her wonderful life, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting one of Sacramento's most well-respected figures.

Joan was a prominent leader in the Sacramento Region, and her death leaves a tremendous void in leadership in the fight for the rights of seniors, people with disabilities and those with mental health needs. Joan's determined and effective advocacy was evident through her early work with the Gray Panthers of California, where she was widely recognized as a thoughtful policy advocate. Later, along with other leaders, Joan helped form and convene the local Sacramento Gray Panthers chapter, which now meets regularly at the Hart Senior Center.

Through her advocacy at the local, State and national levels, Joan became an important ambassador between diverse groups and helped devise strategies for healthcare reform. Joan was a stalwart for progressive causes, and her passion and commitment to these issues resonated in her advocacy. While in her mid-50's, Joan returned to college and earned a degree in Gerontology. She then used her knowledge to fight for the rights of older adults on many fronts, including creating an innovative long term care program in Northern California and successfully advocating for medical schools to have required courses in gerontology.

At the Federal level, Joan often stood next to me and my late husband Congressman Bob Matsui in the fight against cuts to Medicare. She also was an articulate voice during the implementation of the Medicare Part D prescription drug program, offering insights on

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